

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Newly amended independent claim 1 sets forth with specificity the solution of the present invention for forming a chromate-free, corrosion resisting coating on magnesium or magnesium alloy products. Claim 1 has been amended so as to specify the active corrosion inhibitor and to further set forth that the solution comprises vanadate ions. Thus, the subject matter of previously submitted dependent claims 2 and 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended patentably defines over the cited and applied prior art references. Previously submitted claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Matsushima in view of the published application to Briles et al. Initially it should be noted that the inventorship in the instant application and the inventorship in the Briles et al. application contain common inventors. The assignee of both applications is United Technologies Corporation.

Applicants in rejecting previously submitted claim 4 sets forth a prima facie case of obviousness. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prima facie case of obviousness is overcome when considering the newly amended claim 1 and the

disclosure of the instant application. In this regard the examiner's attention is drawn to Page 4 of the specification and particularly the last 8 lines thereof. Clearly, a synergistic effect is achieved as a result of the composition of the solution as set forth therein, the aminophosphoric acid will form insoluble magnesium salt as part of the conversion coating which will increase the interaction of vanadium with the conversion coating thereby resulting in a higher vanadium content which is beneficial to the overall corrosion resistance of the coating. The prior art cited by the examiner does not appreciate the synergistic effect which takes place as a result of the solution composition as claimed. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom define patentably over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

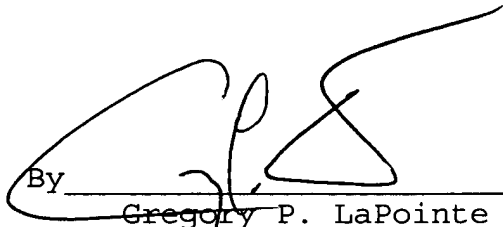
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein

patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

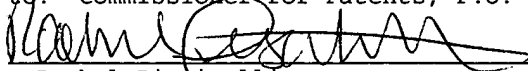
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 8, 2005.


Rachel Piscitelli